

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 ARA-10 EB-08
TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 PA-01 USIA-06 /104 W
-----080193 220728Z /11

R 211548Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2282

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1529

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, AO, NL
SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON ANGOLA: THE NETHERLANDS

REF: A) STATE 60342, B) STATE 54529

1. IN A SECOND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON ANGOLA WITH MFA, EMBASSY PASSED ORALLY VIEWS OF SENIOR ZAIRIAN OFFICIAL TO HEAD OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS VAN VLIET, AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTELS. VAN VLIET SAID THAT GON ALSO BELIEVED THAT NETO WAS NO LONGER THE UNQUESTIONED MPLA LEADER AND REFERRED TO A RECENT REPORT RECEIVED FROM DUTCH CHARGE IN LUANDA. THE REPORT, WHICH FOLLOWS IN PARAS 2-10, DEALS MAINLY WITH THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. HE CAUTIONED THAT MOST OF THE INFORMATION WAS UNVERIFIABLE.

2. MPLA - A MAJOR CAUSE OF MPLA DIFFICULTIES WAS REMOVED IN MAY 1977 WITH THE ELIMINATION OF THE NITO ALVES GROUP. HOWEVER, NETO IS NOT INVULNERABLE. A POWER STRUGGLE IS GOING ON AMONG THREE GROUPS: (1) NETO'S GROUP WHICH IS PRAGMATIC AND COMPOSED MAINLY OF COMRADES FROM HIS PERIOD OF EXILE; (2) FAPLA AND INTERNAL SECURITY SERVICE PEOPLE WHO ADVOCATE A HARDER LINE, ESPECIALLY IN FIGHTING UNITA; AND (3) UMBUNDU, AN ETHNIC GROUP ADHERING TO THE TYPE OF IDEAS HELD BY NITO ALVES.

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3. SEVERAL STORIES CIRCULATE ABOUT THE FATE OF NITO ALVES:
(1) HE ESCAPED MAY 27 ON AN AEROFLOT PLANE. SHELL OFFICIALS (WHO PROVIDED FUEL) CONFIRMED THAT AN AEROFLOT PLANE ARRIVED AND LEFT QUICKLY ON MAY 27; (2) NITO ALVES WAS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ARREST;
(3) HE IS BEING HELD CAPTIVE IN SAO MIGUEL FORT.

4. GENERAL SITUATION - THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1977 OFFENSIVE

AGAINST UNITA IN THE HUAMBO AND BIE AREAS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. LARGE NUMBERS OF CAN TROOPS KD MANY PAJ MILITARY FORCES FROM ODP (ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE PEOPLE, A KIND OF PEOPLE'S MILITIA) WERE APPARENTLY UNABLE TO SECURE THE AREAS. REPORTS CONTINUE OF ATTACKS AND AMBUSHES; THE MAIN ROAD FROM HUAMBO TO BENGUELA, LUBANGO AND LUANDA REMAINS UNSAFE. THERE IS A QUESTION IF ONLY UNITA GUERILLAS WERE INVOLVED.

5. MILITARY - IT IS REPORTED THAT UNITA RECENTLY KILLED ABOUT 25 CUBAN TROOPS OF A UNIT IN A SURPRISE ATTACK IN HUAMBO. A FEW DAYS LATER AND ODP CONTINGENT WAS DESTROYED. USUALLY, MPLA FORCES CONTROL THE CITIES, AND THE COUNTRYSIDE IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF WHATEVER FORCE IS PRESENT.

6. MILITARY TACTICS - FIRST, ODP ATTACKS, FOLLOWED BY FAPLA. DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY CUBAN FORCES COMES THIRD, IF NEEDED. CURRENT FAPLA STRENGTH STANDS AT ABOUT 50,000 MEN. DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS FAPLA HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A REGULAR ARMY, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE CUBAN AND RUSSIAN SUPPORT IN THE FACE OF UNITA STRENGTH. UNITA IS LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT IN THE SOUTH UNLESS THERE IS SOME CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN NAMIBIA.

7. CUBAN FORCES - TROOP STRENGTH REMAINS STABLE AT ABOUT 19,000. NO TROOP TRANSPORT SHIPS HAVE ARRIVED SINCE MID-DECEMBER; NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE CONCERNING TROOPS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN
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BROUGHT IN BY AIR. MAIN CUBAN CONCENTRATIONS ARE IN LUANDA, CABINDA AND MOCAMEDES. A CUBAN ARMY CAMP IS IN EVERY TOWN. MOST CUBANS ARE IN LAND FORCES, ALTHOUGH THEY SERVE IN ALL BRANCHES. THE ANGOLAN AIR FORCE HAS TWO OR THREE SQUADRONS OF MIG'S AND SOME PORTUGUESE AIRCRAFT FROM THE COLONIAL ERA. THE ANGOLAN NAVY HAS TWO SOVIET WARSHIPS, ONE TORPEDO BOAT AND ONE LANDING SHIP. SAILING IS INFREQUENT.

8. CIVILIAN SECTOR - EVERY MINISTRY HAS CUBAN ADVISERS, ESPECIALLY THE MINISTRIES OF TRANSPORTATION AND FOREIGN TRADE. CORRUPTION BY CUBANS IN THE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY IS SAID TO BE SO WIDESPREAD THAT THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO CURB CUBAN INFLUENCE THERE. SOVIET, POLISH AND EAST GERMAN ADVISERS ARE ALSO IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES. IN THE MEDICAL SECTOR, ABOUT 2,000 CUBANS ARE PARTICIPATING AS NURSES, DOCTORS AND DENTISTS. THEIR LEVEL OF TRAINING IS NO HIGHER THAN THAT OF A THIRD-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT (IN AMERICAN TERMS THIS WOULD BE ABOUT THE B.S. LEVEL IN PRE-MED). ANGOLAN POPULATION IS SOMEWHAT RESERVED ABOUT GOING TO CUBAN DOCTORS. CUBAN TECHNICIANS ARE ALSO NUMEROUS IN ORGANIZATIONS SUPPLYING ELECTRICITY AND WATER. SOME ANGOLANS ARE SENT FOR TRAINING TO CUBA.

9. ECONOMIC - THERE IS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT AND CABINDA-GULF, BOEING AND CATERPILLAR. TRADE POLICY IS PRAGMATIC, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SIGNS NOW AND THEN THAT EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DO NOT LIKE THAT. EAST GERMANY AND USSR ARE RUMORED TO BE PRESSING FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT ON TENDERS, SAYING THAT IF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT PREPARED TO GIVE SUCH TREATMENT, THEY WOULD REQUIRE CASH PAYMENTS FOR ALL PURCHASES. ANGOLAN IMPORTS FROM ABROAD IN 1977:

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1529

USSR - \$1 MILLION
EAST GERMANY - \$65 TO \$70 MILLION
CZECHOQOKIU- \$10.6 MILLION
YUGOSLAVIA - \$17 MILLION
THE NETHERLANDS - \$30 MILLION

VAN VLIET SEEMED TO BE PROUD OF DUTCH SALES TO ANGOLA AND NOTED WHEN QUESTIONED THAT "LUCKILY" ANGOLANS HAVE NOT ASKED GON FOR ANY STRATEGIC ITEMS.

10. CUBAN MORALE - THEY APPEARED TO BE BORED, ISOLATED AND FRATERNIZED LITTLE WITH THE ANGOLAN POPULATION. AFTER WORK CUBANS RETURN TO AREAS RESERVED FOR THEM. THERE IS A FEELING AMONG THE PEOPLE THAT ANGOLA IS BEING RECOLONIZED--THIS TIME BY THE CUBANS.
BROWN

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